



# TMP FAMILY THEATER TEACHER GUIDE



**Junie B.'s**  
**Essential**  
**SURVIVAL GUIDE TO SCHOOL**

Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide...  
January 27 - February 4

Directed by Kayla Littleton  
Music Directed by Kamryn Littleton

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

## SYNOPSIS

A self-appointed expert on all things first grade, Junie B. is determined to write the ultimate guide - Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School. As she deals with writer's block and constantly getting into trouble, Junie B. quickly realizes that she still has a lot to learn.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I was a little kid, I loved books, and I still do! Some of my earliest memories of reading involve the Junie B. Jones book series. I loved to read about the adventures of everyone's favorite spunky 6-year-old and her classmates - tattletale May, richie Lucille, and Herb (who she will probably marry one day) - and all of the antics they got up to in Mrs' Kindergarten class and Mr. Scary's First Grade class.

As a director, I have gotten the privilege to tell Junie B's story on the stage twice - once in 2018 with some amazing CampTMP campers in *Junie B. Jones The Musical Jr*, and now in 2024 with grown ups in *Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School*. These musicals are just as much fun as the books they are based on and have been an absolute treat to get to bring to life!

The cast, production team and I have had a blast putting ourselves back into the brains of first graders for this show. For me specifically, it has been a heartwarming and nostalgic experience that I hope you all will enjoy as much as I have!

Kayla Littleton, Director

# MEET THE TEAM

**Barbara Park (Author)** was an American author of children's books. She was the author of the popular Junie B. Jones books. The series was aimed at young readers and included around 30 different titles. The series has sold over 55 million copies in North America alone. Park died on November 15, 2013 from ovarian cancer.

**Marcy Heisler (Book/Lyrics)** Marcy Heisler is an author, artist, educator, and Drama Desk-nominated lyricist. Off Broadway bookwriting credits include *Dear Edwina* (Daryl Roth Productions), *Junie B Jones*, and *Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School* (TWUSA). She earned a B.A. from New York University with High Honors in Dramatic Writing. Prior to NYU, she studied Theatre at Northwestern University, and is a proud Dramatists Guild and ASCAP member.

**Zina Goldrich (Music)** is an award-winning composer, conductor, musical director, and performing artist. She won the 2009 Fred Ebb Award for excellence in songwriting with longtime collaborator, Marcy Heisler. Ms. Goldrich was a staff songwriter for Walt Disney Feature Animation. She studied with legendary Oscar winner Jerry Goldsmith, and is a proud graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) Scoring for Motion Picture and Television program.

**Kayla Littleton (Director)** is a Director, Teaching Artist, Dramaturg and Actor based in Tacoma and currently serves as the Director of Education at TMP. Her primary focus is youth engagement in the arts. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from University of Puget Sound. Some of her favorite directing credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *The Little Mermaid* and *The Rainbow Fish Musical*.

**Kamryn Littleton (Music Director)** is so excited to be music directing her second TMP Family Theater show. She has been working with TMP as a music director and director for CampTMP programs for years now. You've also seen her on stage in *The Rainbow Fish Musical*. Kamryn is a full time registered nurse and photographer and is so grateful that TMP gives her the opportunity to continue her involvement in the arts!

# AT THE THEATER

Live theater is incredibly exciting and fun for all ages, but can come with a bit of a learning curve for young audiences who are not used to the art form. Below are some tips and instructions to share with your students before attending the theater.

Remain seated the whole performances with your feet hanging off the seat, not tucked under yourself or kicking the seat in front of you.

Do not talk during the performance. It disrupts the actors and the other audience members. If an actor talks to you directly, it's okay to respond!

Use the restroom or get a drink of water **BEFORE** the show or during intermission (if there is one). Getting up during a performance can be distracting, so avoid it if you can!

Make sure to clap for things you enjoy and laugh at things you find funny! Actors appreciate the feedback!

After the show, the actors will line up in the lobby to greet you! Feel free to say hello and tell them something you enjoyed about the show!

## PRE - SHOW

# INFO AND ACTIVITIES

This musical is specifically based off of the 2009 book *Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School*, but features characters from all of Barbara Park's Junie B. books!

We recommend reading any books that take place when Junie B. was in First Grade to get an idea of the characters before attending the show. These start with Book #18 *First Grader* (at last!).

### Pre-Show Discussion Ideas

1. What are some things you wished you knew before starting \_\_ grade?
2. If you were to give advice to anyone who will be in \_\_ grade next year, what would it be?
3. What is one topic that you know so much about and could talk about all day?
4. What are three things you need to survive school and why do you need them?

## POST - SHOW

# CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

After attending the show, allow students to share their thoughts on the show and experience. Here are some guiding questions to keep the conversation going:

1. What was the biggest difference you noticed between the stories and the musical?
2. What character was your favorite?
3. Which character did you relate to the most?
4. Junie B. sometimes acts out in class and blames it on “El Toro Fabuloso”, what are some strategies she could use when she feels El Toro acting up so that she doesn’t break the rules?
5. What was your favorite song in the show?
6. What was your favorite moment in the show?
7. What do you think the kids coming into your grade next year need to know to be successful?

# MAKE A GUIDE FOR YOUR NEXT CLASS

*Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School* features Junie B.. and her classmates making an ultimate survival guide to the first grade to pass on to Mr. Scary's next class when they move up from Kindergarten.

Have your class work together to create a guide for your next class! Assign groups of kids to come up with a specific topic (examples below), and create a chapter by writing, drawing, creating a collage, or perhaps even a presentation that will help kids learn about being in your class!

Topic Ideas:

- About the teacher
- Riding the bus
- Recess
- Classroom procedures
- Lunchtime
- Their favorite subject

The sky is the limit!



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TMP FAMILY THEATER! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK NEXT SEASON!

If you have any questions about this show or future ones, please feel free to reach out to Kayla Littleton, Director of Education.

## CONTACT US



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